

A-F School Letter Grades Working Group

Meeting 1: Introductions & Overview
Thursday, October 5, 2023





BEST FOR
ALL

We will set all students on a path to success.

ACADEMICS

ALL TENNESSEE STUDENTS WILL HAVE
ACCESS TO A HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATION,
NO MATTER WHERE THEY LIVE

STUDENT READINESS

TENNESSEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS WILL BE
EQUIPPED TO SERVE THE ACADEMIC
AND NON-ACADEMIC NEEDS OF ALL
STUDENTS IN THEIR CAREER PATHWAYS

EDUCATORS

TENNESSEE WILL SET A NEW PATH FOR
THE EDUCATION PROFESSION AND BE
THE TOP STATE IN WHICH TO BECOME AND
REMAIN A TEACHER AND LEADER FOR ALL



Meeting 1 Agenda

- Commissioner's Overview
- Introductions
- Legal Requirements
- Approach to Implementation
- Reviewing the Working Group's Task



Commissioner's Overview



Introductions



Team TDOE: Here to Support You

- Lizzette Reynolds, Commissioner
- Sam Percy, Deputy Commissioner
- Chelsea Crawford, Chief of Staff
- Kristy Brown, Chief Academic Officer
- David Laird, Assistant Commissioner, Assessment and Accountability
- Grace Shelton, Assistant Commissioner, Performance and Evaluation
- Victoria Robinson, Assistant Commissioner, Communications and Engagement
- Aimee LaGrone, Senior Director of Engagement
- Ginger Leach, Senior Director of Regional Supports
- Hsiang Yeh Ho, Senior Director of Accountability
- Reed Cook, Director of Policy & Legislative Affairs
- Chelsey Sexton, Director of Communications

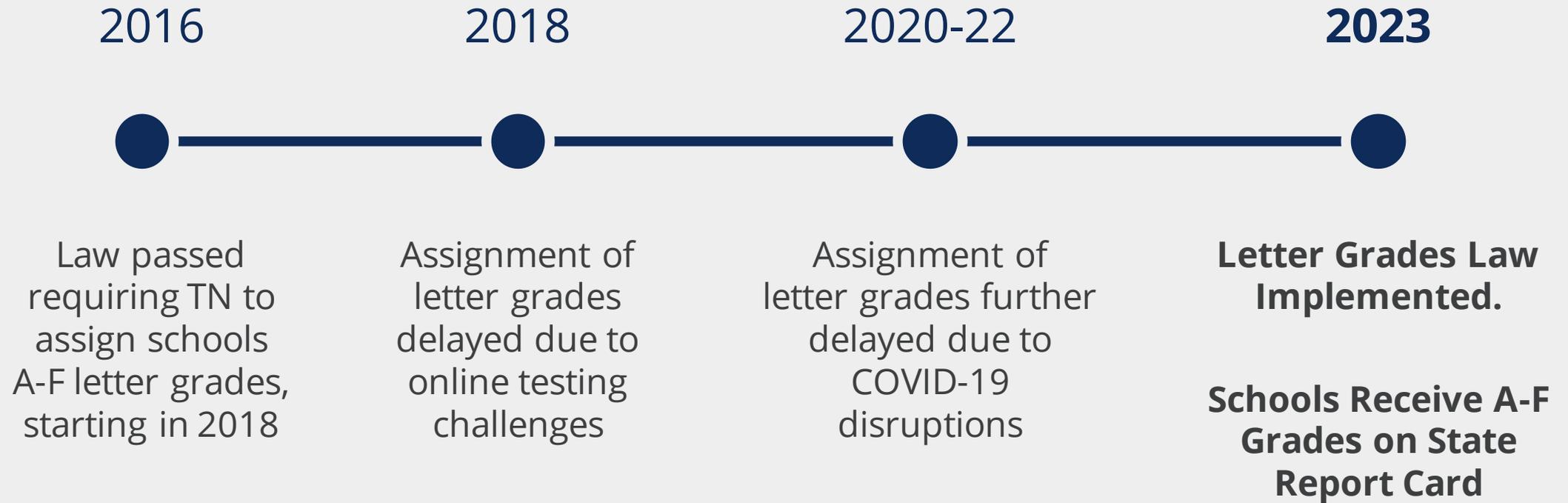


Legal Requirements

Legal Requirements: T.C.A. 49-1-228

- a. The department of education shall develop a school grading system that annually assigns A, B, C, D, and F letter grades to schools based on:
 - a. Student performance on the Tennessee comprehensive assessment program (TCAP) tests or end-of-course exams;
 - b. Student growth as indicated by Tennessee Value-Added Assessment System (TVAAS) data or data from other measures of student growth; and
 - c. Other outcome indicators of student achievement that the department finds to be reliable measures of school performance.
- b. The department of education shall include each school's A, B, C, D, or F grade on the state report card.
- c. Implementation of the school grading system shall begin in the 2017-2018 school year; provided, however, prior to implementation, the state board shall review the grading scale developed by the department.
- d. The department shall provide notice of the adopted grading scale to each LEA prior to the start of the 2017-2018 school year.
- e. Notwithstanding subsection (a), student performance and student growth data from the TNReady assessments administered in the 2017-2018 school year shall not be used to assign a letter grade to a school pursuant to this section.
- f. Notwithstanding subsections (a)-(c), student performance and student growth data from the Tennessee comprehensive assessment program (TCAP) tests, which include, but are not limited to, TNReady assessments, English learner assessments, alternate TCAP assessments, and end-of-course examinations, administered in the 2019-2020 school year shall not be used to assign a letter grade to a school, unless the use results in a higher letter grade for the school.
- g.
 - a. If eighty percent (80%) or more of an LEA's or public charter school's students enrolled in grades three through twelve (3-12) participate in the Tennessee comprehensive assessment program (TCAP) tests administered in the 2020-2021 school year, then, notwithstanding subsections (a)-(c), student performance and student growth data generated from the TCAP tests administered in the 2020-2021 school year shall not be used to assign a letter grade to a school.
 - b. The commissioner of education may, at the commissioner's discretion, grant an LEA or public charter school a waiver from the eighty-percent-participation requirement in subdivision (g)(1).
- h. The department shall not issue letter grades or any other summative ratings for schools eligible for the accountability protections in subdivision (g)(1) or schools that receive a waiver from the commissioner pursuant to subdivision (g)(2) in the state report card for the 2020-2021 school year; provided, that the department shall provide student performance and student growth data to LEAs, and as required by federal law.

TN School Letter Grades: *A Brief History*



Approach to Implementation

Goals & Process for Implementation

- Produce ratings for schools that are clear and meaningful to families who already have expectations for performance as represented by a letter grade
 - Recognize accomplishments in academic achievement, growth and any other indicators that may be determined
 - Identify areas of need or opportunities for improvement to support planning and investments at the local level

1. Public Town Halls

2. Public Comment

3. A-F Working Group

4. Calculation & Letter Grades

2023 Town Hall Schedule

Tuesday, August 15: Mid-Cumberland Region
Dickson County High School, Dickson, TN

Thursday, August 17: First Region
General Morgan Inn, Greenville, TN

Tuesday, August 22: Southwest Region
Bartlett High School, Bartlett, TN

Wednesday, August 23: Southwest Region
Southwest TN Community College, Memphis, TN

Thursday, August 24: Northwest Region
Dyersburg Middle School, Dyersburg, TN

Tuesday, August 29: Southeast Region
East Brainerd Annex, Chattanooga, TN

Thursday, August 31: East Region
Central High School, Knoxville, TN

Tuesday, September 5: Upper Cumberland Region
Cookeville High School, Cookeville, TN

Wednesday, September 6: Mid-Cumberland
Ellington Agricultural Center, Nashville, TN

Thursday, September 7: South Central
Shelbyville Central High School, Shelbyville, TN

Public Comment Overview

WAYS TO THINK ABOUT PERFORMANCE

- Achievement
- Growth
- Performance in subgroup(s)
- Growth in lowest performing
- Cohorts
- Trends over time

COMMUNICATING THE LETTER GRADE

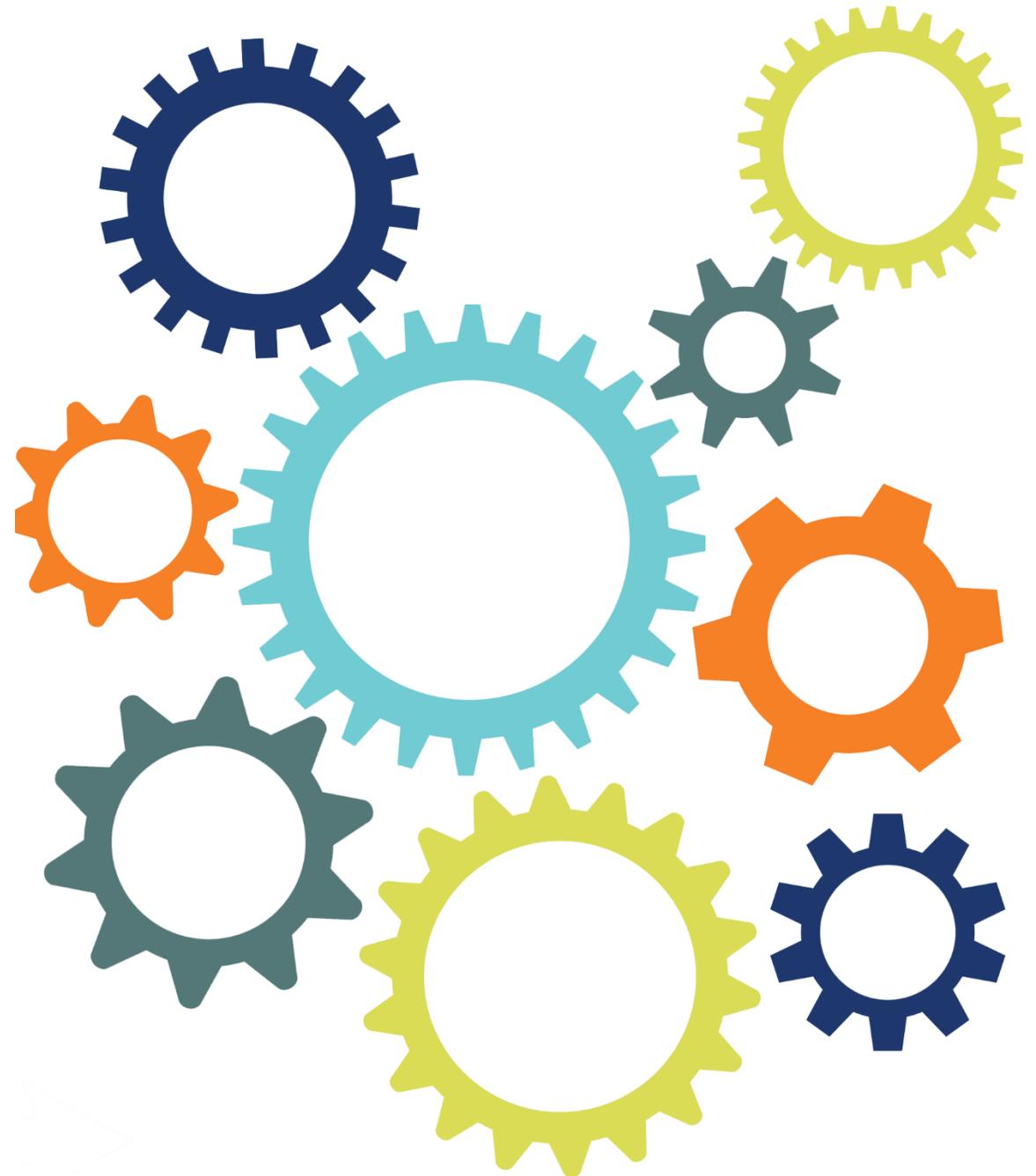
- Challenging to convey in one grade
- Simple construction, not complex
- Understandable by parents
- Report/display the components alongside single letter grade
- “What is measured will be the focus”

OTHER INDICATORS

- Elementary, Middle, High
- Chronic Absenteeism
- Student Attendance
- Teacher Retention
- Postsecondary Readiness
 - Career Exploration
 - CTE, AP, DE, JROTC
 - Graduation Rate
- Academics & Supports
 - Science, Social Studies
 - Third grade ELA
 - RTI²
 - Tutoring

Next Steps

- **A-F Working Group**
 - All meetings will be recorded and posted
 - All materials will be posted
- **State Report Card Development**
 - NEW: Enhanced functionality (*throughout*)
 - NEW: Improved language to communicate with the public (*throughout*)
 - NEW: A-F Letter Grade subpage
 - Overview of A-F Calculation
 - Scores/grades for each component indicator
 - Overall letter grade for the school
- **District Supports**
 - Key Audiences: Parents and Families, Teachers & Staff, Local Elected Officials, General Public
 - CORE and Data Analyst Coordination
- **Key Releases**
 - October: A-F Letter Working Groups
 - November: A-F Letter Grades (*after district preview window*)



Reviewing the Working Group's Task



Develop a ***calculation***
to generate
A-F letter grades for schools

Group Norms and Tips

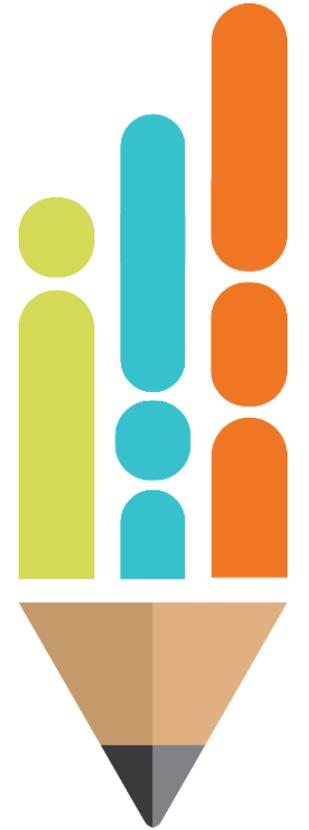
We have limited time together and we are grateful for your participation. To best use our time together, here are some tips for engaging:

Do's:

- Contribute your perspective
- Consider parents and families
- Review public comment
- Engage your communities
- Provide clear input

Don'ts:

- Forget the intended audiences
- Debate the the law
- Ignore the legal requirements
- Focus on reporting displays
- Stray from the meeting agenda, as much as possible





Meeting Schedule

- **Meeting 1: Introductions & Overview**
Thursday, October 5, 2023, from 3:00- 5:00 pm CT
- **Meeting 2: Required Component of the A-F Calculation: Achievement**
Tuesday, October 10, 2023, from 3:00- 5:00 pm CT
- **Meeting 3: Required Component of the A-F Calculation: Growth**
Thursday, October 12, 2023, from 3:00- 5:00 pm CT
- **Meeting 4: Required Component of the A-F Calculation: Other Indicators**
Monday, October 16, 2023, from 3:00- 5:00 pm CT
- **Meeting 5: Putting It All Together: Weighting**
Friday, October 20, 2023, from 3:00- 5:00 pm CT

All meetings are virtual via Microsoft Teams. All meetings will be recorded and posted on the department's website for transparency.





Homework for Meeting 2

1. Review public comment at tn.gov/education/SchoolLetterGrades
2. Review prompts for the topic at Meeting 2: **Achievement**

This afternoon, the department will email you easy-to-access links, as well as this slide deck for Meeting 1, to help you prepare for Meeting 2.





Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 10

**Email additional questions, comment, or input to
SchoolLetterGrades@tnedu.gov**

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